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CLIMATE CHANGE DATA EXPERT TO VISIT LA PLATA COUNTY

Durango, CO - Kristen Averyt, PhD, a research scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and formerly a staff scientist with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will speak in Durango Thursday, October 23, 7 p.m. in 130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College. She will also assist the newly created Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE) to kick off its effort to develop a climate action plan for our region. Her visit to southwest CO will include a day in Cortez, where she will speak on October 22.

Dr. Averyt is currently associated with the Western Water Assessment, CIRES, a cooperative institute of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and University of Colorado-Boulder, and is crunching climate change data to determine the probable effect of climate change on Colorado's water resources. Her report is due to Governor Ritter October 8.

Dr. Averyt's previous position was as staff scientist for Working Group I of the IPCC, the international organization that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former vice-

president Al Gore. Working Group I focused on the physical science behind climate change.

In addition to her doctoral work at Stanford University in geological and environmental science, she has an M.S. in chemistry from University of Otago, New Zealand, and a B.S. in chemistry and marine science from the University of Miami, FL. She has a number of publications, awards, honors and grants.

Her visit is sponsored by League of Women Voters of La Plata County with a grant from LWV of United States and Oxfam America. The Durango Herald and Cortez Journal, Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado, San Juan Citizens Alliance, and the Fort Lewis College Environmental Center are co-sponsors and her evening talk at FLC is co-hosted by Life Long Learning series organized by Professional Associates, FLC.

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